

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT

(Acre)
CODE 548

DEFINITION

Modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools by treatments such as; pitting, contour furrowing, and ripping or sub-soiling.

PURPOSES

This practice should be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Fracture compacted soil layers and improve soil permeability.
- Reduce water runoff and increase infiltration.
- Break up sod bound conditions and thatch to increase plant vigor.
- Renovate and stimulate plant community for greater productivity and yield.

CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

This standard may be applied on pastureland, rangeland, grazed forest, and native pastures.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable For All The Purposes Stated Above.

Mechanical treatments such as contour furrowing, pitting, ripping or subsoiling shall be designed and applied in a manner to accomplish the desired objectives and address the natural resource concerns. These treatments shall be limited to soils and slopes where surface disturbances will not result in unacceptable levels of soil erosion and/or sedimentation.

Areas to be treated shall be relatively free of undesirable or noxious plants that are likely to increase because of surface disturbance.

If natural plant community is desired, desirable forage species shall be of sufficient quantity and have a distribution pattern that allows the plants to take advantage of the improved moisture and to spread into disturbed areas

Following treatment, desirable forage species shall have adequate recovery periods to improve plant vigor.

CONSIDERATIONS

Range Planting and Pasture and Hay Planting may be used in conjunction with Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment.

Mechanical treatment may not be desirable on areas to be used for recreation due to enhanced surface roughness of the site.

All treatments should be planned on the contour when conditions warrant.

Resident wildlife needs should be considered when planning the treatment. Small birds often use treated areas for nesting sites.

Drought following treatment, low vigor, or other conditions may require extended recovery periods for the desirable forage species. The cooperators will be encouraged to extend the recovery period whenever the situation warrants.

To help insure uniform utilization by livestock, apply this practice to as many acres as possible within a given pasture or paddock.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications shall be prepared for each site or planning unit according to the Wyoming NRCS Conservation Practice Specifications.

Specifications shall be recorded using state developed specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in conservation plans, or other acceptable documents.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Implementation of a prescribed grazing plan is essential. Without a prescribed grazing plan the desired effects of this practice will not be achieved, and the practice may need to be repeated.

Maintenance: The manager will use "prescribed grazing" to insure longevity of the practice.